est in the Sierras with a hope of hearing it. Mr. Osgood in *North American Fauna No. 21* describes *Nyctala acadica scotœa* from Queen Charlotte Islands, which is probably quite, if not entirely, identical with specimens that have been taken in California, and also including Lichenstein's *Strix frontalis* which is grouped in Vol. 9 of *Pac. R. R. Reports* with *Nyctale albifrons.*

I hope *Nyctala* will be retained for the generic name of these owls and think no great violence will be done our code of nomenclature by retaining it. Dr. Coues somewhere suggested a statute of limitations whereby a name that had been in use about fifty years should continue in use,—a wise suggestion I think. *Ncytale* and *Nyctala* have done good service about that long; it seems to me that our greatest present want is stability of ornithological nomenclature.

L. BELDING.

Stockton, Cal.

Mniotilta varia Recorded Again in California

AS the result of an outing at Pacific Grove, Cal. I am enabled to again record the Black-and-White Warbler for California the specimen being a male in fall plumage. On Sept. 8, 1901 while driving out to Point Lobos, Monterey Co., at the Carmel River crossing my attention was attracted to a chickadee which I thought seemed to be chasing a chickadee of larger size. On collecting the bird I found it to be a Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*); making the third recorded specimen for California. The two skins I have taken measure as follows: No. 784, Coll, W, O. E.; wing, 2.11; tail, 2.00 inches, Farallone Island, May 28, 1887; No. 3047, Coll. W. O. E., wing, 2.10; tail, 1.14 inches, Monterey Co., Cal. Sept. 8, 1901.

There seems to be no perceptible difference between these specimens and those from the Atlantic Coast. An immature female is recorded in "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co., Cal." by Grinnell, the specimen having been taken by H A. Gaylord on Oct. 2, 1895 in Arroyo Seco near Pasadena, Cal. W. OTTO EMERSON.

Haywards, Cal., Oct. 30, 1901.

The American Redstart in Oregon.

While looking over the University of California collection of skins at Berkeley the past month for some records of the old Dr. Cooper collection, I noted a female American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) labelled "John Day River, Oregon, July 1, 1899," collected by Loye Miller, catalogue number 130. While being an Oregon take I consider it worthy of recording, as the date being late would indicate a nesting bird, and it may be found by some of the field-workers later on as occurring sparingly on the Pacific Slope, it being a summer resident of British Columbia.

W. OTTO EMERSON.

Haywards, Cal., Nov. 2, 1901.

Warbler Notes from Los Angeles, Cal.

Dendroica maculosa. On October 5, 1901 while watching a flock of about a dozen Lutescent and Pileolated warblers feeding in some willows, I saw among them what I took to be an immature Calaveras Warbler. I shot at and secured it and on picking the bird up was agreeably surprised at finding it to be a female Magnolia Warbler. I believe this is only the second thus far taken in this county. On Oct. 21, 1897 I secured one, also a female, (recorded in Grinnell's "List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.") about a quarter of a mile from where I took this bird.

Helminthophila celata. For about six weeks, commencing with Sept. 1, Lutescent Warblers were quite abundant in the vicinity of Los Angeles. I carefully scrutinized the various flocks I saw in the hope of finding some Orange-crowned Warblers, and was rewarded by securing two specimens, a

female on Sept. 28 and a male on Oct. 14. Mr. Grinnell writes me that he has a specimen, a male, taken at Pasadena Sept. 30, 1896. Aside from this I believe that I have about all the specimens heretofore taken in Los Angeles County, but nevertheless I believe that *Helminthophila celata* is a regular fall migrant in very limited numbers. I have taken it now in four different years (see CONDOR III, i), in fact in every year in which I have looked for it. The grey head and duller colors of *celata* usually serve easily to distinguish it from *H. c. lutescens*, in whose company I have generally found it.

H. S. SWARTH.

Los Angeles, Cal.

The Status of the Cedar Waxwing in California.

IN THE May CONDOR Mr. J. W. Mailliard makes an enquiry in regard to the summer and winter ranges of the Cedar Waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum*). Since then I have jotted down whatever notes I could find on the subject, and these may be summarized somewhat as follows:

The Cedar-bird is principally if not exclusively a winter visitant to the State. I have been unable to find any definite breeding record for California; but a distribution map is pretty well dotted with winter stations from Red Bluff to San Diego, and from the Nevada line to the Coast, excepting the high mountain ranges. In the more northern and alpine sections it occurs chiefly as a spring and fall migrant. Within its winter habitat as above indicated, the species is found abundantly each year, though its local distribution is very irregular, being governed largely by food-supply. In certain localities waxwings may appear suddenly in large flocks, while points but a few miles distant are avoided altogether. Besides mulberries, mistle-toe berries and wild grapes, the berries of the pepper-tree, so abundantly planted for shade and beauty in Southern California, are especially sought after. These latter berries mature in largest quantities in the early spring months and it is then that the casual observer is most sure to notice the presence of the Cedar bird.

The Cedar Waxwing arrives within the State during the latter half of September. My earliest fall record at Palo Alto is September 13, 1901, when six were seen in the heart of town. At Pasadena, I saw them first on September 14, 1897, when three were noted. Fisher, in the "Ornithology of the Death Valley Expedition," records finding a flock of five at Three Rivers September 15, 1891. The species is not, however, noted in numbers until well along into October. From that month until the middle of May it is more or less numerous according to local food attractions. In the spring the species remains common until even after many of our strictly summer visitants are rearing young. This fact has led to the supposition that the waxwing itself should be found nesting. But according to my own observations, up to the time of their disappearance, the birds remain in flocks, without showing any intentions of pairing.

My latest spring observation for the species at Pasadena was May 17, 1895, when a small flock was still feeding in the pepper-trees on my home place. Belding, in his "Land Birds of the Pacific District," records the latest at San Diego, May 14, 1884; at Poway, May 18, a large flock; at San Jose, May 10, large flocks; and at Chico, May 15, 1884, a small flock. So that the usual time of arrival and departure of the species throughout the State is remarkably constant.

There are, however, four instances of the occurrence of waxwings long after the ordinary time of departure. As noted in "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles County," two were seen at South Pasadena June 16, 1897; Fisher has recorded two at Lone Pine,